

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 14, 2000 LB 1349

body, Senator Wehrbein, this conversation has certainly piqued my interest. And I am very concerned about what is happening here, because I remember some of the discussions from yesteryear about the amount of deferred maintenance that we have. And, I guess, what I'd like to ask you, Senator Wehrbein, is if you can give us some kind of an estimate about how much deferred maintenance we've got out there yet.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You know, I don't have a current figure of that at this point. We started out at several hundred million, and I know it's come down quite a bit. The university and our bonding was, I think, \$100 million alone. And so...but it's one of those things that it's how fast you peddle, so I...but I can't give you an exact number. Certainly we've stopped the bleeding.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I appreciate that. But I am suspecting that we still have a fairly large amount out there. And I...I...I will be very much opposed to reducing this fund. I have no problem with funding the information technology stuff, but I don't think it ought to come out of this fund, I think we better find another way of funding it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No, it's not 309...excuse me, it's not 309 funds, it's the cigarette tax going direct into this fund.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right, okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Bromm, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. The focus of the discussion has been primarily on the cigarette tax, and I understand that. But I want to point out to the body that this does do something significant in that it attempts to set up a process whereby we can have some accountability for large scale computer technology projects that are more under the control of the legislative process, there is reporting to us. The key, in my opinion, is having people in those positions that are capable of recognizing technology for what it is and giving us good